Oral School, this city."

The September 22, 1949, edition of the *Scranton Times* contains a picture of Edgar P. Frear, special education supervisor of Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, lecturing to the faculty at a teachers' institute. Those identified in the group picture are Misses Natalie Alworth, Olive Hare, Eleanor Jones, Ruby Montgomery, Hazel Ayers, Mary B. Evans, principal, Mrs. Belle Rea, Miss Dorothy Warner, Miss Margaret Nelson, Mrs. Bethel Lloyd, Richard Conning, and Miss Margaret Van Cleff.

The *Scranton Times* of March 16, 1950, prints the names of nine new directors appointed by Gov. James H. Duff: Mrs. Marjorie Sutherland, Leo Markowitz, Benjamin Sterling, Jr., Paul E. Sable, Karl Reese, William W. Martin, Dr. William A. Rose, Joseph Gerard, and Mrs. Elizabeth Friese. Miss Mary Evans, the principal, is not to be replaced.

Matthew Knoble is fired as superintendent of buildings, to be succeeded by Herbert Dooley. The ousted Knoble blames the principal and trustees for the school's physical condition; he says they failed to act on his recommendaions. Miss Evans is unavailable for comment.

Other school problems make the papers. A photograph shows loosened plaster on the ceiling of the boys' shower room caused by a leaking roof. The July 25 headline: "Oral School Visit Reveals Major Repairs Are Needed." The list is long: the stone entrance pillars, two stone chimneys, a leaking sewer line, basement and corridors, kitchen and laundry, leaky roof in gym, tile flooring in the gym. In addition, the swimming pool, needing a small repair, has been idle for five years. A dishwasher purchased three years ago is still in its crate.

Shortly afterwards the paper reports that a new heating plant will be built at a cost of $114,526. Its constuction had been recommended by the old trustees.

The last paragraph of a *Times* article dated May 9, 1951, is quoted: "The Pennsylvania State Oral School was the first oral school founded in the U.S. Through its efforts the Deaf Single Hand alphabet has been officially adopted by the Boy Scouts of America. The school also paved the way for the resurrection of "The Silent Worker," a national and international periodical, which in turn established a National Association of the Deaf, with headquarters in Chicago."

Diets are the subject of a late '52 article. They call for a quart of milk daily for each student and plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. Ice cream, a student favorite, is served Wednesday and Saturday nights.

An early 1953 clipping announces that the school gym is used by Scranton Prep students and members of the Asbury

Methodist Church.

In January of '53 Miss Eleanor P. Jones becomes acoustical department head at the school.

On March 12, 1954, the *Times'* headline reads "Head of School Fired by Board." Miss Mary B. Evans has been given a three-day dismissal notice. She had served as principal from 1945-54. Her predecessor, Katherine Van Deusen, had had forty-eight hours' notice. Miss Evans's successor is Mrs. Helen S. Bissell of nearby Glenburn, widow of Attorney William Bissell.

The Scranton *Tribune* of March 16 headlines "Discharged Official Enters Political Race." Miss Evans, sponsored by Attorney Everett A. Rosser, becomes a candidate for Pennsylvania State Committewoman.

A letter to the editor printed on March 19 protests the firing. It is from Gordon Tannehill whose son is a graduate of the school.

The April 8 issue of the *Times* tells of another change: "Dr. Rose Ousted at Oral School." He had protested the firing of Evans.

"A 'patronage spree' has long existed at the Pennsylvania Oral School between Republicans and Democrats. I know of what I speak." Thus begins a letter to the editor of the *Times* from Mary B. Evans. Hers is a plea for the board of trustees to listen to experts who from experience know the needs of the oral school. Among those she lists retired teachers, advisers on special education, Mr. Edgar Frear, teachers at Mt. Airy School for the Deaf, a representative of the alumni, Miss Helen O'Donnell and a member of the Belin family. Her letter is dated April 4, 1957. By this time Mrs. Bissell, her successor, has also been fired. Both dismissals were protested by the Green Ridge Ministerial Association as being politically motivated. A new principal, Frank J. Ozovek is named. When he becomes business manager because his qualifications do not meet Department of Public Instruction standards for principal, Gladys B. Fish, a former DPI specialist, becomes acting principal.

After the hiring of Mr. Ozovek, the Scranton *Times* column about politics, "Random Notes," had this to say: "It can be expected that the appointment of Mr. Ozvek as principal will be followed by the gradual replacement of Republican holdovers at the school. In time, I am told, there will be jobs for about 30 deserving county Democrats."

The "patronage spree" to which Miss Evans referred comes from the headline "Patronage Spree at Oral School Gives State 'Cause for Concern.'" The second paragraph: "Dr. Charles Boehm, superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, admitted yesterday that 'cause for concern for the welfare of the handicapped students during the final months of the school term center around uncertainty on the part of the (employees)